

Last Revised: December 2006

Species Synopses

The synopses of information on the status of the stocks of the 42 species or groups of species presented in this section are based on commercial and recreational fishery data and on research survey data, as described in the Introduction to this report. Each synopsis briefly reviews the biology of the animals and the general nature of the fishery, summarizes recent catch statistics and stock assessment results, and indicates the general status of the stock. For each stock or species a summary table¹ of recent catches is presented, along with graphs depicting trends in landings, stock abundance, fishing mortality, age structure and other pertinent results from the most recent stock assessment. The measures of stock abundance include research vessel survey catch per tow indices and estimated stock size from age structured or biomass dynamics models.

References in the text to catches or indices of abundance usually refer to values given in the tables and figures. In some cases, however, summary statistics provided in the text for different areas, fishing gears, or data sources are not presented in the tables and figures. Catch statistics in the tables are given in thousands of metric tons (mt), rounded to the nearest 100 metric tons; values less than 100 mt are indicated as <0.1. Information on landings and trends in stock abundance and biomass is presented through the most recent complete year while, in most cases, the determination of stock status is based on the most recent peer-reviewed assessment which may not be as current.

Many of the assessments summarized in this section have been prepared and/or reviewed through the Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop (SAW), the Transboundary Resource Assessment Committee (TRAC) and the Groundfish Assessment Review Meeting (GARM) processes described in the Introduction. The reports of these workshops, and reports in which the assessments are provided in greater detail, are cited where applicable, and are available on the following Web sites:

SAW: <http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/nefsc/saw/>

TRAC: <http://www.mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/science/TRAC/TRAC.HTML>

GARM: <http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/groundfish/>

NEFSC Online Publications: <http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/nefsc/publications/online.htm>

¹The tables in this section are labeled using decimal notation by species and table within that species. For example, Table 7.2 indicates the second table for the seventh species synopsis, yellowtail flounder.